1950-51

File No. LA. 170/46

B CLASS

P.W **DEPARTMENT**

El. **BRANCH** (I)

Subject:— Fluorescent Tubes —
Measures against the use of
by the public.
(R. No 1627 by Mr A.A. Khan-
M L.A Poona)

(6)

B [K] - 1951

File No. L.A. 170/46 — El. (I)

Std. Sects Slip 24-A

G.R., G.D., No. 2408, dated 22-6-22.]

Correspondence

DOCKET SHEET

Subject :—

File No. G.A. 170/46

P.W **DEPT.**

E1 **BRANCH(I)**

References :— Original file is sent to Maharashtra

Date.	To whom sent.	Notes and instructions.

No. L.A. 170/46-El. (I). P.W.D.
B.C.(Bom bay No. I.)

19th October 1950.

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Ministry of Commerce,
New Delhi.

Sub: Fluorescent Tubes.

Sir,

I am directed to state that a cuestion was ashed in the Legislative Assembly of this State whether this Govt. was aware that Fluorescent tubes have been found to carry an extereme poison hazard and that there was no printed warning to that effect on the carton of the tubes.

2. I am to state that enquiries made in this connection, by the Elcl. Engrl to this Govt. reveal that the inner side of the Fluorescent tubes and lamps is coated with some Fluorescent material containing beryllium, the precentage of which varies from a fraction to 4%. Medical openion that it is this beyyllium which hinders repid healing of wounds. It ~~this~~ was therefore considered desirable that the matter should be brought to the notice of the general public and they be advised of the precautions neccssary to be taken to handle the tubes when they break. A press note was accordingly issued recently on the cubject, a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

3. Further enquiries made by the El. Engr. in the matter revel that most of the important manufactures of these tubes in the U.K. and U.S.A. have already stopped using beryllium compounds in the tubes of their manufacture and have replaced this substance by more efficient halo-phosphate powders which according to them are not harmful. It is not possible to say, without expert medical advice, whether or not, the new material has any deleterious effects on human body. I am therefore to suggest that steps may please be taken to obtain a written guarantee from the

importers of Fluorescent lights and tubes to the effect that the material imported by them does not contain any substance which would prove injurious to the human body. This Govt. may kindly be informed of the action taken in the matter.

Yours faithfully ,

Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of Bombay,
P.W.D.

D.A. Copy of the press note.

Copy for information to the Electrical Engineer to Govt. in continuation of the G.E. No. L.A.170/-46-El(I), dated the 3-10-50.

Id/-
12-12-50.

P - 1688
10-10-50.(1.30 P.M.)

With the Compliments of the
Director of Publicity,
Government of Bombay,
BOMBAY.

HANDLING OF BROKEN FLUORESCENT TUBES

"Treat Them As Poison"
Warning to Public

Members of the public are advised to handle with utmost care broken pieces of fluoresent tubes as they contain beryllim, though in very small proportion. There is also need for spe-cial precautions to be taken in the disposal of such broken and unserviceable tubes.

There is no danger from intact fluorescent tubes and hence on special proceautions are needed for handling and fixing these tubes. A broken tube should, however, be treated like poison, since it contains merecury vapour and its inner portion is coated with poisonous elements.

In case the lamp socket is loose or defective, the tube may fall to the floor, Where this happens, a puff of phosphorous will scatter all over the place. Care should be taken not to breathe the dust or vapour. The first thing to do is, to go out of the room, until the dust has settled. It is dangerous to pick up pices of glass with fingers. The broken pieces should be swept with a brush and pan. If possible, wet the floor before sweeping it and thereafter wash it with a rag and throw the rag away.

If anybody receives a cut from the flying glass-pieces, it is advisable to seek medical aid. If that is not available wash the cut with soap and water; get all glass splinters removed and use a good antisoptic and storile dressing.

Do not throw the broken tube in a dust-bin or waste con-tainor. It should be wrapped up in heavy paper and put aside for Municipal refuse collection. Make sure that children cannot get at the tube to use it as a play-thing.

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It is recommended that broken tubes should be either thrown into water in the deep sea or in a dump.

The Municipalities are being advised to collect all such broken and unserviceable tubes and destroy them in a suitable manner. The public are advised to hand over broken and unserviceable tubes to the Municipal Officers under special instructions of the local Municipality.

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Press Note

Safe Disposal of Fused Fluorescent Tubes

Fluorescent tubes which are now commenly used for lighting are generally coated on the inside with a fluorescent powder which may contain beryllium reninging up to four p-recent. While there is absolutely no danger from beryllium when the fluorescent tubes are in use, a certain amount of hazard is implicit in the breaking up of the fused or burnt out tubes. If the powdered glass of the broken tube gets under the skin, it may lead to chronic inflammation. It is necessary, therefore, to take some elementary precaution in breaking and disposion of the discarded fluorescent tubes.

Ministry of Health

New Delhi, May 15, 1951.

Sld/BJC" 550 - 15-5-51.

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